

NEW DESCRIPTION

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *BLACUS* NEES
(HYMENOPTERA: BRACONIDAE), ALONG WITH A KEY TO INDIAN SPECIES¹Z. AHMAD² AND Z. AHMED¹Accepted February 13, 2008²Section of Entomology, Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 202 002, Uttar Pradesh, India.

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A new species of the genus *Blacus* Nees, namely *Blacus (Ganychorus) hayati* sp. nov., is described under the subgenus *Ganychorus* from India. A key to the Indian species of *Blacus* is also given.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Blacinae, *Blacus*, new species, India

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Blacus* Nees belongs to the subfamily Blacinae of Braconidae. Achterberg (1988) revised the subfamily and included four species under the genus *Blacus* from India. Recently, Ahmad and Shujaiddin (2001) added one species to the genus *Blacus* from India. In the present work, a new species is described and a key to the Indian species of *Blacus* is provided. Achterberg (1988) has been followed for terminologies.

The following abbreviations are used in the text: OOL – ocello-ocular line (distance from the outer edge of a lateral ocellus to the compound eye); POL – post-ocellar line (distance between the inner edges of the two lateral ocelli); AOL – anterior-ocellar line (distance between the inner edges of anterior and lateral ocellus), OD – diameter of an ocellus; ZDAMU – Zoology Department, Aligarh Muslim University.

KEY TO INDIAN SPECIES OF THE GENUS *BLACUS* NEES

1. Eyes conspicuously setose; medio-posterior propodeal area small and rectangular
..... *Blacus (Contochorus) turbidus* Papp.
- Eyes glabrous or nearly so; medio-posterior propodeal area different or small 2
2. Propodeal carina comparatively weakly developed; antenna 17 segmented; fore claw of female only setose
..... *Blacus (Blacus) imitator* Papp.
- Propodeal carina distinctly developed; antennae 20 segmented; fore claw of female with blackish bristles or simple 3
3. Scutellar sulcus smooth; middle tarsal claw of female simple; second metasomal tergite largely costate
..... *Blacus (Tarpheion) votrus* Papp.
- Scutellar sulcus crenulate; middle tarsal claw of female with blackish bristles; second metasomal tergite smooth 4

4. Fore wing shorter than the body length; ovipositor sheaths approximately 0.2x as long as fore wing; pterostigma uniform *Blacus (Ganychorus) indicus* Ahmad and Shujaiddin
- Fore wing longer than the body length; ovipositor sheaths approximately 0.16x as long as fore wing; pterostigma with apical margin infuscate 5
5. Frons densely setose; face largely and transversely rugulose; precoxal sulcus widely rugose; dorsal carina of first metasomal tergite only near dorsope
..... *Blacus (Ganychorus) setosifrons* Achterberg
- Frons sparsely setose; face smooth; precoxal sulcus and its surrounding striate; dorsal carina of first metasomal tergite almost reaching up to the apical margin
..... *Blacus (Ganychorus) hayati* Ahmad, sp. nov.

***Blacus (Ganychorus) hayati* Ahmad, sp. nov.**

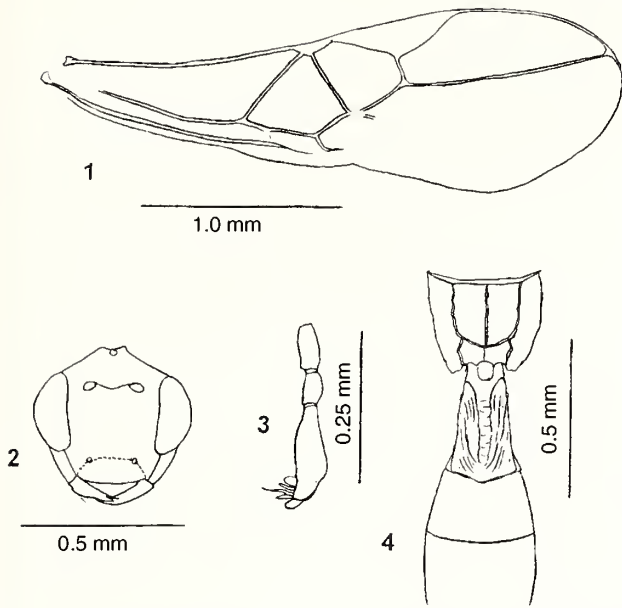
(Figs 1-4)

Female: Body length 2.5 mm; fore wing length 3 mm.

Head: Antennae 20 segmented, densely setose with short silvery-whitish setae; Fl 1.5x as long as F2, terminal segment 2x as long as penultimate segments; length of Fl, F2 and terminal segment 6, 4 and 3.5x their width; frons smooth and sparsely setose; OOL: POL: AOL: OD = 4:3:2.5:1; occipital margin somewhat crenulate; eyes in dorsal view about as long as temple; face smooth with a somewhat weak tubercle between antennal sockets; malar suture present; length of malar space about 1.2x basal width of mandible.

Mesosoma: Length of mesosoma 1.6x its height; sides of pronotum extensively reticulate rugose, but smooth dorsally; precoxal sulcus and its surrounding striate, few striae reaching up to prepectal carina and postpectal carina; notauli complete rather narrow and crenulate; mesoscutal lobe rather convex and setose; scutellum with few rugulae, lateral carinae not protruding dorsally; propodeal tubercles absent, surface

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Figs: 1-4: *Blacus (Ganychorus) hayati* sp. nov.
 1. Fore wing; 2. Head, frontal view; 3. Mid tarsal claw;
 4. Propodeum, T1 and T2

of propodeum largely smooth, its median area absent; fore wing with first discal cell truncate anteriorly; 2-CU1 about 2.0x as long as 1-CU1; parastigma rather large; length of hind femur, tibia and basitarsus 6x, 9x and 8x their width respectively; fore and middle claw with blackish bristles and teeth; hind claw simple, only whitish (bristly) setose.

Metasoma: Length of first tergite 1.65x its apical width, longitudinally rugose, dorsal carinae almost reaching up to the apical margin; second tergite smooth; length of ovipositor sheaths approximately 0.16x of fore wing.

Colour: Dark reddish brown; palpi, mandible, ventral

clypeus, tegulae, pterostigma (except infuscated margin of apical half), fore leg, mid leg, hind leg (except telotarsus), second and third tergite largely pale yellowish; face, vertex behind eyes, mesoscutum and apex of hypopygium yellowish brown; wings hyaline membrane, veins largely dark brown.

Male: Unknown

Holotype: ♀, INDIA: Uttar Pradesh, Rampur; 13.iii.2003, Coll. Z. Ahmed (ZDAMU).

Paratypes: 1 ♀, same as holotype (ZDAMU)

Host: Unknown.

Distribution: India: Uttar Pradesh.

Etymology: The species has been named in honour of Dr. Mohammed Hayat for his contribution towards the knowledge of parasitic Hymenoptera.

Remarks: *Blacus (Ganychorus) hayati* Ahmad sp. nov. closely resembles *Blacus (Ganychorus) setosifrons* Achterberg, but differs in having frons sparsely setose (frons densely setose in *setosifrons*); face smooth (face largely transversely or obliquely rugulose in *setosifrons*); precoxal sulcus and its surrounding striate (precoxal sulcus widely rugose in *setosifrons*); dorsal carinae of first metasomal tergite almost reaching up to the apical margin (dorsal carinae of first metasomal tergite only near dorsople in *setosifrons*).

The type material is deposited in Zoological Museum, Department of Zoology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

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